

City of Somerville
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ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE GUIDE 2012

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK!

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GREENSOMERVILLE



Water Savings Opportunity -
Rain Barrel Event May 12th, 2012



A Rain Barrel distribution event will be held on May 12 outside the DPW yard at One Franey Road. Each recipient needs to order a rain barrel *in advance* from www.nerainbarrel.com. Having a rain barrel underneath your downspout will allow you to collect plenty of natural rainwater to help keep your gardens watered during the summer months. Using rainwater reduces your water bills, and it's great for your plants because it is untreated and free of dissolved materials.

Rain barrel dimension

details: 36 inches (3 feet) high and 24 inches (2 feet) in diameter. They hold up to 55 gallons of water; and when full, they weigh 440 pounds.

Look inside for the
2012 Environmental
Services Calendar!

2012		
April	May	June
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July	August	September
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October	November	December
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2013		
January	February	March
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City of
Somerville
Environmental Service Guide 2012



Mayor's Message

Welcome to this year's expanded edition of the Somerville Environmental Services Guide. The guide offers all of the information you depend on throughout the year: yard waste and hazardous waste disposal calendars are here, along with information about our rain barrel program. This year we've also added sections covering our zero-sort recycling program – which is off to a strong start – and our Residential Energy Efficiency Program, a new initiative that can save serious money for homeowners while reducing energy use.

As always, feel free to call 311 or visit the City website at www.somervillema.gov if you need more information – and be sure to join us for our annual Spring Cleanup Day on April 28th. I look forward to seeing you there.

—Joe Curtatone, Mayor

2012 Environmental Services

2012		
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HHW - Household hazardous waste services

- **When and Where:** Second Saturday of the month from April to November, 9:00 AM—12 Noon at the DPW yard, One Franey Road.
- **Open to City residents only:** Please provide a utility bill or driver's license showing a Somerville address. No businesses or rental property owners are eligible.
- **Accepted material at HHW days:** Paints, thinners, cleaners, motor oil, antifreeze, mercury thermometers, car batteries, compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs, and rechargeable batteries.
- **PLASTIC /TRASH BAGS ARE NOT ALLOWED DUE TO POSSIBLE SPILLS/LEAKS.**

Yard waste will be picked up curbside on your regular trash pickup days during highlighted weeks in the calendar.

H Holiday schedule.
Trash /Recycling pickup is delayed by one day.

Yard waste must be kept in paper bags or barrels marked with "yard waste only" stickers. These stickers are available FREE of charge from DPW customer service and Constituent Services—311 at City Hall.

Yard waste may also be dropped off at the DPW yard, Monday– Friday, 8:00 AM—4:00 PM, year round. (Plastic bags will not be accepted.)

Bushes and tree limbs must be cut and tied in bundles that are not more than 3 feet in length for both pick-up and drop-off.

Save Energy. Save Money. Save the Planet.

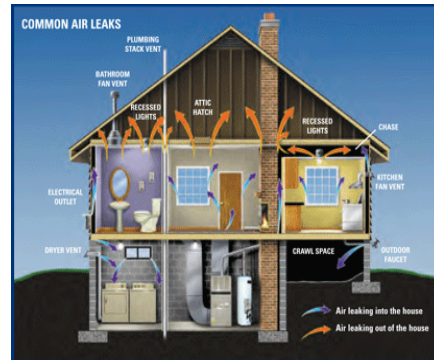
Six Ways to Make Driving More Green

- **Keep up on your vehicle maintenance.** On average, a properly maintained engine can cut your gasoline use by over 46 gallons per year, saving you money while reducing your annual carbon footprint by 900 kilograms.
- **Keep your tires inflated and invest in low-rolling resistance tires.** New tire technologies can pay for themselves with better gas mileage, but the old rule about maintaining recommended pressure is still true — and can save you more than \$50 per year on gas.
- **Drive efficiently.** Driving at a steady, reasonable pace reduces your fuel use by as much as 15 percent. That translates to over \$175 per year in savings on gasoline, and over a ton of carbon per person removed from the atmosphere.
- **When you can, shut your engine off.** When you leave your car idling while parked, you waste gas and cause wear and tear on the engine.
- **Get rid of unnecessary weight in your car.** Your fuel efficiency drops by 1 percent for every 100 pounds of stuff that you keep in your car, so it pays to clean out your trunk.
- **Carpool.** New websites like eRideShare have made it easy and convenient to match up with people with similar commutes. Companies such as NuRide offer restaurant discounts, free event tickets, and other rewards to commuters who carpool or find other green ways to commute.

The City of Somerville can provide assistance in retrofitting your home with energy efficient upgrades that can reduce your energy consumption and cut from 20% to 50% off your annual energy bill.

The Residential Energy Efficiency Program can provide home owners up to \$1,500 per unit or 100% of project costs to the homeowner, whichever is less, for energy efficiency upgrades. These rebates are available to income eligible households earning between 60% and up to 120% of Area Median Income. Additional rebates from your utility providers may also be available.

These rebates may be applied to a wide range of energy-efficient improvements in such areas as insulation, hot water systems, and heating systems. To schedule an audit, call REEP program manager Russell Koty at 617-625-6600 ext. 2568, or complete the intake form at www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/housing/reep.



Compost - Make Earth and Reduce Waste



Love at first sight!

Composting is an easy way to reduce the amount of trash you produce. The City offers backyard composting bins (“Earth Machines”) for \$40.00 (paid by check only) at the DPW, during business hours, Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM. (The photo to the left was a winner in our Zero-Sort photo contest. The compost bin is on the left.)

Household Hazardous Waste - Alternate Options

- 1 Motor Oil:** You can recycle used oil at the store where it was purchased. Retailers are required to accept used oil (up to 2 gallons per person per day) if you present the original receipt. Please call the Used Oil Hotline at 617-556-1022 to report retailers unwilling to do this.
- 2 Photo Chemicals:** Photographic waste liquids should not be poured down the drain if the house is connected to a septic system. If in an area with a sewer system, developer and rinse may be poured down the drain. Some photo shops may accept silver bearing fixer waste for recycling and management.
- 3 Surplus Paint:** If the paint is usable and there is a reasonable amount, you can donate it to a community organization or theater group. Latex paint may be disposed of as trash if dry. To dry a small amount of paint remove the lid and let paint dry in the can. For larger amounts, mix in kitty litter or pour one-inch layers in a cardboard box lined with a plastic bag. Stir the paint occasionally to speed drying and put completely dried paint in the trash. Hardened oil-based paint can also be disposed of in the trash.



Photo by Daniel R. Blume

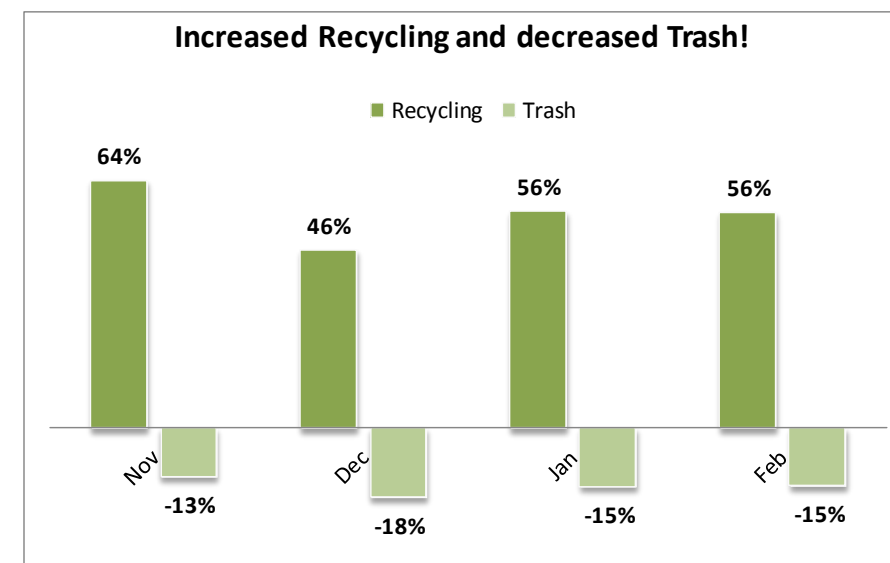
Zero-Sort Recycling & Disposal of Other Goods



Zero-Sort recycling consolidates the traditionally separated recycling streams — **mixed paper, cardboard and comingled containers** — allowing residents to put them all together in one, easy-to-manage “recycling cart”. For more information, please call 311 or go to the City’s website: www.somervillema.gov. The photo to the left, “Come

Together, Right Now...and Don’t Sort,” won our Zero-Sort photo contest. We hope it inspires you to recycle.

Thanks to you, Zero-Sort is already a success



During the first four months of the New Zero-Sort Recycling program, we have seen an increase of more than 50% in our recycling tonnage. Congratulations Somerville — and keep up the good work!

Don’t forget to mark your address on your Recycling Cart. It will help identify your cart and help prevent it from going missing on your recycling pickup day.



Disposal of White Goods, Televisions, Computer Monitors, Batteries, & More

● **\$25 White Good Stickers** for disposal of dryers, refrigerators, dishwashers, washing machines, cooking ovens, air conditioners, or hot water heaters are available at DPW during business hours, Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

● **Televisions or computer monitors:** Pickup is curbside, but pickup must be scheduled in advance by contacting 311.

● **Household furniture:** Limited to two items per week left on the curb.

● **Household Batteries:** Non-rechargeable batteries such as AA, AAA, etc. should be disposed of as regular trash. Rechargeable and button cell batteries should be disposed of on Household Hazardous Waste days.

● **Mattresses:** Mattresses may be disposed of with your regular trash.

● **Styrofoam:** Styrofoam may not be recycled. Please dispose of Styrofoam with your regular trash.

All payments to DPW must be made by check or money order only — no cash or credit cards will be accepted.